

IN THE CLAIMS

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Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, in which the first surface of said fitting comprises a fusible material which, when heated via the energy transfer means, at least partially melts, causing the fitting and the wall to be fused together.

Claims 24. (Cancelled)

Claim 25. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, in which the fitting is adapted for use with a wall which is of a material which is not suitable for being attached to the fitting by electrofusion, the first surface of the fitting incorporating an adhesive of a type which is activated by heat, wherein the heating of the first surface by the energy transfer means activates the adhesive and thereby bonds the fitting to the wall.

Claim 26. (Currently Amended) A fitting subterranean fuel storage tank assembly according to Claim 25, in which the adhesive is a member selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic, thermoset~~[[,]]~~ and cross-linking ~~and pressure sensitive~~ adhesive.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, in which the energy transfer means of said fitting comprises a heating wire which is embedded within the first surface.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, in which the sleeve of said fitting is of a substantially circular cross-section, ~~and the flange is radial.~~

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, in which the fitting includes terminals for connecting the energy transfer means to a current supply.

Claim 30. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim ~~[[22]]~~ 38, wherein the fitting further comprises ~~a member of the group consisting of~~ clamping means and a sealing member ~~and a boot~~ adapted to form

a fluid tight seal between the sleeve and the pipe and which is secured to the tubular sleeve and pipe by means of said clamping means ~~mounting over the tubular extension of the tubular sleeve.~~

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly fitting according to Claim 30, in which ~~one of the group comprising the said~~ sealing member and boot is resilient, ~~and the tubular sleeve is adapted to receive one of the group comprising the sealing member and boot on the tubular extension of the tubular sleeve.~~

Claims 32-33. (Cancelled)

Claim 34. (Currently Amended) A method subterranean fuel storage tank assembly according to Claim ~~[[32]]~~ 38, in which the materials constituting the chamber wall and the first surface of the flange are such that their surfaces are fused together by a process of electrofusion.

Claim 35. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly method according to Claim ~~[[32]]~~ 38, in which the ~~method also~~ fitting includes providing an adhesive which is activated by said heating to cause the fitting to be bonded to the wall.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly method according to Claim [[32]] 35, in which [[an]] the adhesive is incorporated into onto the first surface ~~on~~ of the flange.

Claim 37. (Cancelled)

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly for use in a petroleum forecourt installation used in the petroleum industry, comprising:

a subterranean fuel storage tank of the type having a manhole chamber with a generally ~~upright and~~ planar manhole chamber wall having opposite sides and a fuel conveying pipework in fluid communication with the fuel storage tank including at least one fuel pipe extending into the chamber through an opening in the chamber wall, through the chamber and out of the chamber so that fuel is not released into the manhole chamber, ~~the improvement comprising: ; and~~

a rigid fitting in said chamber wall for providing a substantially fluid-tight seal between the opening in the chamber wall and a fuel pipe of the pipework passing through said opening to seal against water from leaking into the manhole chamber to seek to maintain the manhole chamber substantially free of water, ~~said rigid fitting~~ comprising:

- (i) a tubular sleeve adapted to allow the pipe to pass through the sleeve;

(ii) a flange[,]) having opposite sides and extending radially outwardly from the sleeve[,]) and positioned relative thereto so that the tubular sleeve extends from at least one side of said flange, and one of said sides of said flange having a generally planar first surface of the flange being configured and positioned to directly contact one side of the chamber wall around substantially the whole circumference of the opening via substantially the whole first surface of the flange; and

(iii) an energy transfer means comprising conduction means for conducting an electric current, said conduction means in use being heated by the current, to cause said heating of the first surface of said flange, said energy transfer means being incorporated in the flange and situated adjacent to the first surface of the flange[,]) ~~said energy transfer means~~ and being adapted to heat the first surface of the flange in order to form a substantially fluid tight seal between the one side of said chamber wall and the flange by causing the wall and the flange to fuse bond together[,])

~~wherein the tubular sleeve extends from at least one side of the flange, said fitting being adapted to be positioned and welded on said one side of the chamber wall.~~

Claim 39. (Currently Amended) A fuel pump assembly, comprising:

a fuel pump having a sump chamber with a generally ~~upright and~~ planar subterranean sump chamber wall having opposite sides and having fuel conveying pipework in fluid communication with the pump and extending into the chamber

through an opening in the chamber wall, through the chamber and out of the chamber[[]]; and

~~there being provided in the chamber wall~~

a rigid fitting in the chamber wall for providing a substantially fluid-tight seal between the opening in the subterranean chamber wall and a pipe of the pipework passing through said opening to seal against water from leaking into the chamber to seek to maintain the chamber substantially free of water, ~~said rigid fitting~~ comprising:

(i) a tubular sleeve adapted to allow the pipe to pass through the sleeve;

(ii) a flange[[]] having opposite sides and extending radially outwardly from the sleeve[[]] and positioned relative thereto so that the tubular sleeve extends from at least one side of said flange, and one of said sides of said flange having a generally planar first surface of the flange being configured and positioned to directly contact one side of the chamber wall around substantially the whole circumference of the opening via substantially the whole first surface of the flange; and

(iii) an energy transfer means comprising conduction means for conducting an electric current, said conduction means in use being heated by the current, to cause said heating of the first surface of said flange, said energy transfer means being incorporated in the flange and situated adjacent to the first surface of the flange[[]] ~~said energy transfer means~~ and being adapted to heat the first surface of the flange in order to form a substantially fluid tight seal between the one side of said chamber wall and the flange by causing the wall and the flange to fuse bond together[[]]

~~wherein the tubular sleeve extends from at least one side of the flange, said fitting being adapted to be positioned and welded on said one side of the chamber wall.~~

Claims 40-60. (Cancelled)

Claim 61. (Currently Amended) A subterranean fuel tank assembly according to Claim 38, wherein said tubular sleeve is further adapted to pass through the opening in the chamber wall and [[and]] wherein the tubular sleeve extends from both sides of the flange such that, in use, the fitting can be positioned in one position on the inside of the chamber wall and in a reversed, alternative position, can be positioned on the outside of the chamber wall.

Claim 62. (Currently Amended) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, wherein said tubular sleeve is further adapted to pass through the opening in the chamber wall and [[and]] wherein the tubular sleeve extends from both sides of the flange such that, in use, the fitting can be positioned in one position on the inside of the chamber wall and in a reversed, alternative position, can be positioned on the outside of the chamber wall.

Claim 63. (Cancelled)

Claim 64. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the first surface of said fitting comprises a fusible material which, when heated via the energy transfer means, at least partially melts, causing the fitting and the wall to be fused together.

Claim 65. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the fitting is adapted for use with a wall which is of a material which is not suitable for being attached to the fitting by electrofusion, the first surface of the fitting incorporating an adhesive of a type which is activated by heat, wherein the heating of the first surface by the energy transfer means activates the adhesive and thereby bonds the fitting to the wall.

Claim 66. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the adhesive is a member selected from the group consisting of a thermoplastic, thermoset and cross-linking adhesive.

Claim 67. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the energy transfer means of said fitting comprises a heating wire which is embedded within the first surface.

Claim 68. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the sleeve of said fitting is of a substantially circular cross-section.

Claim 69. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the fitting includes terminals for connecting the energy transfer means to a current supply.

Claim 70. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, wherein the fitting further comprises clamping means and a sealing member adapted to form a fluid tight seal between the sleeve and the pipe and which is secured to the tubular sleeve and pipe by means of said clamping means.

Claim 71. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 70, in which said sealing member is resilient.

Claim 72. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the materials constituting the chamber wall and the first surface of the flange are such that their surfaces are fused together by a process of electrofusion.

Claim 73. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, in which the fitting includes an adhesive which is activated by said heating to cause the fitting to be bonded to the wall.

Claim 74. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 73, in which the adhesive is incorporated onto the first surface of the flange.

Claim 75. (New) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly according to Claim 38, wherein said chamber wall, fuel pipe, and fitting is polyethylene.

Claim 76. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, wherein said chamber wall, fuel pipe, and fitting is polyethylene.

Claim 77. (New) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly according to Claim 38, wherein said chamber wall is upright.

Claim 78. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, wherein said chamber wall is upright.

Claim 79. (New) A subterranean fuel storage tank assembly according to Claim 38, wherein said flange contacts the chamber wall via substantially the whole first surface.

Claim 80. (New) A fuel pump assembly according to Claim 39, wherein said flange contacts the chamber wall via substantially the whole first surface.